

REMARKS

Claims 12-18, 23 and 24 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, independent claims 12 and 16 are amended, claims 23 and 24 are added, to recite additional features disclosed in the specification at, for example, Fig. 1., and claims 19-22 are canceled. Claims 12-16 are also amended for clarity and/or to correct informalities. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner Van for the courtesy extended to Applicants' representative, Mr. Luo, during the November 18, 2008 personal interview. The substance of the personal interview is incorporated in the following remarks.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of the priority document in this national stage of PCT application.

The Office Action rejects claims 12, 13 and 15-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 7,091,481 to Miller; and rejects claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Miller. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claims 12 and 16, the Office Action asserts that Miller discloses all elements recited in these two independent claims, referring to Figs. 16C and 16D of Miller. In particular, the Office Action asserts that Miller discloses a conductive film 14 disposed on the surface of a substrate 24.

Independent claims 12 and 16 are amended to recite additional features, as outlined above. In particular, claim 12 is amended to recite "a conductive film embedded within the ceramic dielectric." Claim 16 is amended to recite similar features as agreed to during the personal interview. Miller does not disclose or render obvious the subject matter recited in claims 12 and 16, as amended.

In particular, as discussed above, Miller only discloses a film 14 that is disposed on the surface of a substrate 24. Miller does not disclose a conductive film that is embedded within a

ceramic dielectric. Thus, Miller does not disclose "a conductive film embedded within the ceramic dielectric," as recited in claim 12, and similarly recited in claim 16.

Furthermore, Fig. 16C of Miller discloses two dielectrics 34 and 35 applied to the conductive films (electrodes) 14 and 16 with an adhesive composed of glass frit, as is described in col. 13, lines 41-44. The interface of different materials contains bubbles and is likely to cause an dielectric breakdown in a high energy state necessary for generating high density of plasma.

On the other hand, the ceramic dielectrics in the present application are free from the above problems. This is because the metal electrodes are embedded within the plate-shaped ceramic dielectrics, as is shown in Examples in the present application. These configurations have the advantages in keeping excellent insulating properties in high energy state. Therefore, the plate-shaped unit electrodes of present application have an inventive step over the merely integrated electrodes of Miller. Thus, Miller does not render obvious the subject matter recited in claims 12 and 16.

Claims 13-15, 17 and 18 are patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 12 and 16, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite. Accordingly, as agreed to during the personal interview, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §102(a) is respectfully requested.

New claims 23 and 24 are each patentable at least in view of the patentability of claims 12 and 16, from which they respectively depend, as well as for additional features they recite. For example, as agreed to during the personal interview, Miller does not disclose or render obvious that "at least one of the two plate-shaped unit electrodes has grooves and/or recesses on both surfaces of the plate-shaped ceramic dielectric," as recited in claim 23, and similarly recited in claim 24.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 12-24 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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